Statement

Statement regarding Indigenisation in IAF

In early October, 1988 the then C.A.S. had given an interview to a correspondent of the Times of India who subsequently published an Article in the 8th October, 1988 edition of the Times of India as a special feature on the Air Force Day. In a recent Article published in the 16th August, 1991 issue of the Times of India, the author seems to have quoted para 1 of the Article published in October, 88. It appears that the Air Chief Marshal S. K. Mehra (Retd.) has been quoted out of the context with regard to his interview in 1988.

Indigenisation of defence equipments including those of Indian Air Force is an on-going exercise. Steps being taken by the Government to accelerate the pace of indigenisation in defence projects include the following :—

(i) The capacity available in the civil sector is being increasingly utilised to widen the base of indigenous production.

(ii) The Defence Production Units have time-bound targets for reducing import content in equipments produced by them and their performanec in this regard is being monitored in the Ministry.

(iii) Task Groups have been set up for identification and quantification of spares for maintenance/overhaul of a number of defence equipments in order to formulate time-bound plan for indigenisation of spares.

As a result of various steps taken for accelerating the pace of indigenisation in defence projects, there is a greater degree of self-reliance and lesser dependence on imports in respect of items which are indigenised.

Delay in acquisition of Advance Jet Trainer

571. KUMARI ALIA:
SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to take a decision on acquisition of the Advanced Jet Trainer for the Air Force; if so, by when the decision is likely to be taken;

(b) what are the reasons for the delay, if any, in taking the decision;

(c) what is the fate of the Advance Jet Trainer Project of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited;

(d) what are the reasons for the project not taking off in time ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) In view of the large investments involved in the acquisition it is necessary to closely examine the comparative techno-economic vailibility of all available options. Process is underway to arrive at an acceptable solution, keeping in view the resource availability and the interests of the Air Force and our production agencies.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal for HAL to develop an Advanced Jet Trainer.

Opening of Defence Production to Private Sector

572. KUMARI ALIA.
SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to open up some areas of Defence production to the private sector; if so, whether Government proposes to allow Priavte Entrepreneurs to use surplus production capacity available with certain ordnance factories; and

(b) if so, what are Government's plans in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) In order to achieve a high degree of self reliance, Government's policy is to make optimum use of the national industrial infrastructure. Accordingly, capacities available in the civil sector both in the private and the